



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

September 17, 2007

Board of Supervisors
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First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
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To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

**DRAFT 5-SIGNATURE LETTER TO STATE OF CALIFORNIA ON REOPENING
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOSPITAL**

On September 11, 2007, your Board requested that the Director of Health Services and this office draft a letter for your review requesting that the University of California have preliminary discussions with the County to explore potential solutions for re-opening Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital.

A copy of our draft is attached for your review. Unless we are advised otherwise, we will work with the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, to finalize this letter for your signatures. Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

WTF:SRH
SAS:bjs

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Director and Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health Services

Draft 5 signature letter.mbs

September 18, 2007

Robert C. Dynes, President
UC Office of the President
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

Dear Mr. Dynes:

We are writing today to request your help in re-opening Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital in South Los Angeles. As you know, despite extensive efforts to reform care delivery while operating the hospital, Martin Luther King, Jr. - Harbor Hospital was not able to make enough progress to meet all CMS standards in its final survey. Based on these findings as well as serious potential staffing concerns, our Department of Health Services' Director and Chief Medical Officer made the difficult decision to close the hospital. The closure was completed and the hospital's license was voluntarily suspended effective Friday August 24, 2007.

As the elected leadership for the County of Los Angeles, we are strongly committed to re-opening the hospital as quickly as possible. While we realize this is a daunting undertaking for any organization, the residents of South Los Angeles deserve and need a hospital that meets national standards and meets the changing needs of this medically underserved area. We also believe that it is important that any partner has a mission consistent with the County's, is prepared to provide services that address the clinical needs in South Los Angeles, and is prepared to make a meaningful long-term commitment to continue services on the site.

We are requesting that the University of California has preliminary discussions with the County of Los Angeles as soon as possible to explore potential solutions for re-opening this hospital under the management and clinical leadership of the University of California. We believe your public service mission and your demonstrated track record of success in running health care organizations would provide a strong foundation to rebuild hospital services in South Los Angeles.

We are committed to developing a solution that would advance the educational and clinical service mission of the University, serve patients in the MLK service area, and continue the County's involvement in sponsoring care for its patients.

Robert C. Dynes
September 18, 2007
Page 2

We have asked Dr. Bruce Chernof, the County's Director of Health Services and Chief Medical Officer to be available to initiate these discussions at the University's request.

Very truly yours,

Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor, Third District

Gloria Molina
Supervisor, First District

Don Knabe
Supervisor Fourth District

Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor, Second District

Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor, Fifth District

c: The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California

The Honorable Don Perata
Senate President, Pro Tempore

The Honorable Fabián Nuñez
Speaker, California State Assembly